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REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are present in the application.

Claims 1-4, 10-16, 18-19 and 21-22 are rejected as unpatentable over TAGUSA et al. 5,946,065 in view of applicants' disclosed prior art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present application provides a plurality of control electrodes each disposed under a gap between adjacent pixel electrodes and over the gate line as seen in plan view, the control electrode covering the gate line.

By way of example, as seen in Figure 1 of the present application, two adjacent pixel electrodes 15a and 15b are shown. A gap 26 is between adjacent pixel electrodes and partially overlaps the gate line 16. A plurality of control electrodes 20 are each disposed under the gap 26 between adjacent pixel electrodes 15a, 15b and over the gate line 16. In addition, the control electrode 20 covers the gate line 16. This is further evidenced in Figure 2 of the present application.

The Official Action offers TAGUSA et al. Figure 1 and reference 25 as teaching a plurality of control electrodes each disposed in the gap between adjacent pixel electrodes and that cover the gate line.

Based on applicants' understanding of TAGUSA et al., it does not appear that TAGUSA et al. teach that for which it is offered. Specifically, Figure 1 shows a single pixel electrode

21. Pixel electrode 21 extends from the top of the page (near reference 23) to the bottom of the page (near reference 26). The control electrode 25 of TAGUSA et al. is entirely within pixel electrode 21.

Applicants submit herewith a color-coded version of Figure 1 of TAGUSA et al. with the elements indicated in the Official Action noted therein. The color-coded Figure 1 shows a gap between adjacent pixel electrodes indicated in pink, and the control electrode 25 is indicated in green. In addition, the gate electrode 22 is shown in blue.

As seen from the color-coded figure, TAGUSA et al. teach a gap between adjacent pixel electrodes. TAGUSA et al. also teach that the gap between adjacent pixel electrodes at least partially overlaps with the gate line. However, TAGUSA et al. do not disclose or suggest that a plurality of control electrodes are each disposed under the gap between adjacent pixel electrodes as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Specifically, green control electrode 25 is not under the pink gap between adjacent pixel electrodes. In addition, TAGUSA et al. do not disclose or suggest that the plurality of control electrodes are over the gate line as seen in plan view and that the control electrode covers the gate line. Specifically, the green control lines 25 of TAGUSA et al. are not over the blue

gate lines as seen in the plan view of Figure 1 and do not cover the blue gate lines 22.

Applicants' disclosed prior art is only cited for the teaching of an LCD with an opposing active matrix substrate with a liquid crystal layer disposed between the matrix substrates. Applicants' disclosed prior art does not address the shortcomings of TAGUSA et al. Specifically, applicants' disclosed prior art does not teach or suggest a plurality of control electrodes each disposed under a gap between adjacent pixel electrodes and over the gate line as seen in plan view, the control electrode covering the gate line as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

The above-noted feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination, and thus is not obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 3-4 and 10-15 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 16 also provides a plurality of control electrodes each disposed under said gap between adjacent pixel electrodes and over said gate line in plan view, said control electrode covering said gate line. The comments above regarding claim 1 are equally applicable to claim 16. Claims 18 and 19

depend from claim 16 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 22 provides a plurality of control electrodes, each of the plural control electrodes being under a first gap between a first set of adjacent pixel electrodes and over a first gate line, as seen in plan view, and extending to one of the switching elements whose gate is driven by a second gate line outside a second gap between a second set of adjacent pixel electrodes. The comments above regarding claim 1 are also equally applicable to claim 22.

Claims 5-9, 17 and 20 are rejected as unpatentable over TAGUSA et al. in view of applicants' disclosed prior art and further in view of YAO et al. 5,682,211. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

YAO et al. is only cited for the teaching of an LCD device with a control electrode having the same potential voltage as that of the source electrode of the switching element and that the control electrode is on the same layer and integrally formed with the source electrode. YAO et al. do not teach or suggest what is recited in claims 1 and 16. As set forth above, TAGUSA et al. in view of applicants' disclosed prior art do not teach or suggest what is recited in claims 1 and 16. Since claims 5-9, 17 and 20 depend from one of claims 1 and 16 and further define the

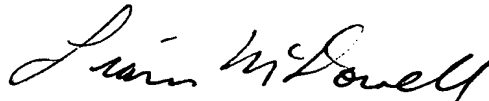
invention, the proposed combination of references would not render obvious claims 5-9, 17 and 20.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- a color-coded version of Figure 1 of TAGUSA et al.

FIG. 1

